

24 January 1963

TIME-SAVING MEMO FOR RAY CLINE

SUBJECT: NIS Status

The DIA people have indicated another week before they can submit their rejoinder to the planning paper for necessary timely scheduling of FY 64 NIS production which was passed them at the 20 December NIS Committee meeting and amplified at the 8 January meeting. This is slow but, as you know, presently getting a DIA commitment on anything will be something of an accomplishment. These OBI proposals call for 30 General Surveys and correlative reduction in supplementing detailed NIS. Chances are that DIA will not buy more than 18 General Surveys in FY 64, with Navy the slowest ship in the convoy (I may later see if your good offices might push the Navy pace some). DIA stresses "a necessary transition period." To generally maintain the production level and allay DIA suspicions that CIA might be trying to hold the long end of the stick, this would require OCI to do some "political" annexes. As I mentioned, in spite of low-key evangelizing for your concepts (non-attributed), both the DIA and State Committee members have stressed "requirements" for on-hand as against ad hoc counterinsurgency and similar detail and have implied these views would be extended to the USIB level. I think there are good chances that Hilsman can be expected to do so rather strongly.

Balmer asked for and we low-key discussed by fone my margin comments on the second draft of their background Attachment, to Findings and Recommendations which I was not shown, and yesterday foned me several times to see if the NIS had adequate benefit of clergy. He seems to be back at the business of whether the Committee is or should be a USIB deal. He indicated that next week they will submit an Interim Report (pleading no time to assess their questionnaire responses--which provide some pretty strong support for the NIS--and to get at their broader directive to look at the whole basic intelligence field). Sounds like he'll ask for USIB approval in principle of NIS changes which in effect you have already outlined and OBI has for some time been trying to push the Defense contributors into. This could be lived with. However, also and more or less inevitably sounds like he will in effect seek to have his staff monitor the accomplishment of their proposals. If some preliminary vibrations of the latter come your way, I see nothing constructive to be gained and in fact only complications in working out with DIA and elsewhere what you have in mind, and I would hope any such fifth-wheeling could be killed off in USIB consideration of what [redacted] submits.

I hope this will give you a working picture of developments, but of course I could amplify in person if you wanted to take more time.

Distribution:

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